

Andrew Jackson to William John Duane, September 21, 1833, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO SECRETARY DUANE.

Washington, September 21, 1833.

Sir, After you retired I opened and read the paper you handed me. I herewith return it as a communication which I cannot consent to receive.¹

¹ For the paper returned by Jackson to Duane, as well as for this reply from Jackson, and other correspondence in reference to Duane's removal, see *Niles' Register*, XLV. 236–239.

Having invited the free and full communication of all your views before I made up a final opinion on the subject, I cannot consent to enter into further discussion of the question. There are numerous imputations in the letter which cannot with propriety be allowed to enter into a correspondence between the President and one of the Heads of Department.

In your letter of July last you remark “but, if, after receiving the information and hearing the discussion, I shall not consider it my duty, as the responsible agent of the law to carry into effect the decision that you then make, I will from respect to you and for myself afford you an opportunity to select a successor whose views may accord with your own on the important matter in contemplation.” My communication to my cabinet was made under this assurance received from you: and I have not requested you to perform any thing which your sense of duty did not sanction. I have merely wished to be informed whether as Secretary of the Treasury, you can consistently with your opinion on the subject of the deposits, adopt such measures in relation to them, as in my view, the public interests and

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a due execution of the laws render proper. If you will now communicate this information it will confer an obligation on

yr. obt. svt.

[*Indorsement:*] Presidents letter to Mr. Duane, dated 21st Sept. 1833. Returning the comm. of Mr. D. in which he declines to execute the views of the Presdnt. relating to the question of the deposits.